

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the amendments above and the arguments set forth fully below. Previously, Claims 1-59 were pending in this application. In response to a restriction requirement, Claims 20-59 have been withdrawn from consideration. By the above amendments, Claim 1 is amended. Accordingly, Claims 1-19 are pending.

Subject Matter of and Issues Raised by the Claim Amendments

The amendment to Claim 1 does not include new subject matter, nor does the amendment raise new issues. In particular, Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the second interface of the second panel is completely obscured by the first panel, while in a first position. The Applicants contend that the addition of the word “completely” to describe the degree by which the second interface is obscured is merely for clarification. In the original claim language “the second interface is obscured by the first panel”, the term “obscured” is applied directly to “the second interface.” There is no further limiting language related to the first position, such as “a portion” or “a section” of the second interface. This is in contrast to the limiting language related to the second position where the second interface is partitioned into a plurality of “sections.” Since limiting language is used to describe something less than a “complete” or “entire” second interface, as claimed related to the second position, absence of such limiting language implies the “complete” or “entire” second interface, as claimed related to the first position. As such, the original claim language “the second interface is obscured by the first panel” implies the limitation “completely obscured.” Accordingly, the above amendment to include the word “completely” is merely for clarification, and should be entered and considered.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0203517 A1 to Park et al (hereinafter “Park”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In particular, Park fails to teach a second interface that is completely obscured by a first panel while in a first position.

The present invention is for an electronic device with at least two panels. A first panel includes a first interface. A second panel includes a second interface. The second panel is

rotatably coupled to the first panel. In a first position, the second interface is completely obscured. In a second position, the second interface is exposed, and is partitioned by the first panel.

Park discloses a mobile terminal and hinge device comprising a main body 110 and a sub-body 160. The main body 110 further has a first and second keypad 113a and 113b, while the sub-body 160 has a display unit 163 (Park, Abstract and paragraph 0028). In Park, the second interface is never completely obscured by the first panel 160 in FIG. 1. Instead, Park discloses that at least a portion of the second interface remains exposed whether the device 100 is in the first position (see element 113a of FIG. 1) or the second position (FIG. 2) (Park, paragraph 0029).

10 In contrast to Park, the present invention teaches and claims that when the device 100, 100' is in the first position, the second interface 205 is completely obscured by the first panel 110 (FIG. 1).

15 For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over Park. Claims 2-16 depend upon Claim 1. Claims 2-16 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim, and are now in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

20 Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0032557 A1 to Brunstrom et al (hereinafter “Brunstrom”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

25 Claims 17-19 depend upon Claim 1. As discussed in the previous section, Park fails to teach, suggest, or disclose at least one limitation in Claim 1, namely, the limitation of “wherein in a first position the second interface is completely obscured by the first panel and in a second position the first panel partitions the second interface into a plurality of exposed sections.” Therefore, for at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over Park.

30 Brunstrom also fails to teach, suggest, or disclose this limitation in Claim 1. Brunstrom discloses a portable device comprising a body and a display cover slidably connected to the body. The display cover is moveable over the display between at least two positions (Brunstrom, Abstract). However, in Brunstrom, the display 14 of the phone 1 is always exposed, regardless of the position of the phone 1 (refer to Figures of Brunstrom, including FIGs. 1, 3, and 4). The display cover 11 is slidable to allow for the size of the display 14 to be optimized (Brunstrom, Abstract). Therefore, Brunstrom fails to teach, suggest or disclose that when the device is in a first position the second interface is completely obscured by the first panel. Further, Brunstrom

fails to teach, suggest or disclose that when the device is in a second position, the first panel partitions the second interface into a plurality of exposed sections.

5 Park, Brunstrom, and their combination fail to teach, suggest or disclose all the limitations of Claim 1, including the limitation of "wherein in a first position the second interface is completely obscured by the first panel and in a second position the first panel partitions the second interface into a plurality of exposed sections."

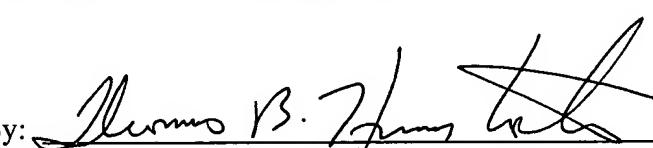
For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over Park in view of Brunstrom. Claims 17-19 depend upon Claim 1. Claims 17-19 are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim, and are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

15 The Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-19 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, they are encouraged to call the undersigned at (408) 530-9700 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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